

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VALLEJO YACHT CLUB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vallejo Yacht Club as they celebrate their 121st Annual Great Vallejo Race.

The Vallejo Yacht Club, originally known as the Vallejo Yachting and Rowing Club, was founded in 1900. Twenty-five years later, The Great Vallejo Race originated as a cruise from Berkeley to Vallejo followed by another race back the following day. This race was organized by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association, an organization created to promote and improve communication among yacht clubs, encourage boating safety, and sponsor regattas. Though starting from humble beginnings, this race is now revered as one of the largest inland regattas in the United States, drawing an attendance of nearly 200+ boats from around the Bay Area.

Now with the backing of the Yacht Racing Association, an organization formed to support competitive racing in Northern California and the leadership of the Vallejo Yacht Club, this two-day race traditionally marks the official opening of the San Francisco Bay racing season. The challenging and scenic course of this race draws hundreds of community members while showcasing the beauty of the Vallejo Waterfront to all participants and attendees.

Among the Vallejo Yacht Club's vast contributions to the community is the Learn-to-Sail program which is open to both youth and adults. This popular program invites all levels of expertise to participate in sailing and encourages aspiring sailors to engage in meaningful events with the community. Their boating safety programs along with their local memberships seek to build a club that is diverse and energetic. The Vallejo Yacht Club is both an exceptional example of what it means to be a generous and altruistic organization and a role model to many aspiring sailors and seasoned professionals.

Madam Speaker, it is no doubt that the Vallejo Yacht Club's achievements and contributions will leave a profound impact on sailors and members for generations to come. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING SHERIFF DANIEL J. BUENO

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the most influential individuals in Jim Wells County, Sheriff Daniel J. Bueno.

Sheriff Bueno has dedicated his life to protecting and serving the people of his county, and its surrounding areas. His innovation and passion for his work will leave a lasting impact on his community.

Sheriff Bueno was born on December 10, 1955 in Alice, Texas, and graduated from Ben Bolt High School in 1974. In his early career, he worked as an X-Ray Technician at the local Alice Hospital. There, he witnessed the tragedies of child abuse, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Seeing these issues drove the Sheriff to find solutions to this rising problem in the community.

Sheriff Bueno began working for the Alice Police Department in 1977 and gradually climbed the ranks, becoming the Chief of Police in 1999. Sheriff Bueno is one of the longest serving police chiefs in South Texas.

Sheriff Bueno is the son of Army Veteran Guillermo Bueno and Elva Perez Bueno. Lessons in discipline and the importance of family, instilled in him as a child, led him to become involved in the Community Action and Outreach of South Texas, where he served as President and a longstanding board member. In this role, the Sheriff prioritized speaking to South Texas families about domestic violence and child abuse prevention programs.

The Sheriff was also a part of the Los Ninos Program, a group that provides educational programs to parents from the City of Alice and across the Rio Grande Valley. Sheriff Bueno believes the home is the foundation for a child's success.

The Sheriff's mother, Elva, also influenced his career path. His mother was heavily involved with the education system in South Texas. This is where he found his passion for the betterment of local education. He served as President of the Mexican American School Board Association of Texas, and the Ben-Bolt Palito Blanco Independent School District Board of Trustees.

In 2017, Sheriff Bueno created the Loose Livestock and Theft Prevention Program. Farmers and ranchers fill out a questionnaire with information pertaining to their land and should anything happen, local law enforcement officials can notify the owner and aid in helping them resolve the issue. Since its creation, the program has grown to over 350 participants and has helped recover over a million dollars in missing property. Sheriffs from all over the state have looked to Jim Wells County as a model for implementing similar programs. Sheriff Bueno and the Loose Livestock and Theft Prevention Program have given residents in these rural areas peace of mind knowing that their law enforcement officials have the tools in place to protect them.

Sheriff Daniel J. Bueno is an inspiration for all who know him. He continues to foster justice, protect the people of Jim Wells County, and promote safety for those living in rural communities. It is clear that Sheriff Bueno is deeply invested in the people of South Texas and we cannot thank him enough for his service.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE MARY ALICE BUCKNER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 20, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant, mentor to many, trailblazer, mother, and dear friend of long-standing, Judge Mary Alice Buckner. Sadly, Judge Buckner transitioned on Friday, September 10, 2021. A celebration of her life was held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, 4400 Old Cusseta Road in Columbus, Georgia.

Mary Alice Buckner was born in Columbus, Georgia on March 3, 1948, as the fifth of nine children to the late Reverend Otis Buckner and Mrs. Beatrice Rogers Buckner. She was educated in the Muscogee County public schools, graduating with honors in 1966, from George Washington Carver High School. She decided early what career she would pursue, choosing law because she wanted her voice to be heard and to make a difference in society. Mary enrolled at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Political Science in 1970. She was accepted into Emory Law School, and after completing her first year, transferred to Mercer University, where in 1973 she received a Juris Doctorate from the Walter F. George School of Law, becoming the first African American female to graduate from Mercer Law School.

Mary Buckner accepted Christ at an early age becoming a lifelong member of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, serving over the years in the Sanctuary Choir, the Pulpit Search Committee, the Welcome Circle Mission, the Mount Pilgrim Legal Counsel Board and President of the Matrons 2. In 1975, Mary Buckner joined my law firm, Bishop and Hudlin. In 1978, the firm changed to Bishop and Buckner, P.C., and she became a full partner specializing in real estate, probate, bankruptcy, and domestic relations. We continued our practice up through 1992 when I was elected to Congress at which time, she formed her own private practice. Madam Speaker, Mary Buckner was a pioneer, paving the way for women and minorities. In February of 1984, she became the first African American woman appointed Judge Pro Tem of the Columbus Recorder's Court, and in 1991, she was appointed by the City Council to serve full time, which she did with distinction until her retirement in 2019.

Judge Buckner made significant contributions to the community through her involvement and volunteer work in organizations such as the Columbus Community Center, Past President of the Columbus Technical College Board, member and Past President of the Georgia Legal Services Board, member of the A.J. McClung YMCA Board, and a member of

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